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18 MR. VASCONI: Bill Vasconi.

19 I've lived in Nevada since 1964. One of my
20 kids is in Washington, D.C. I got two grandkids back
21 there. I got four grandkids out here, two kids. I've
22 been employed at the Nevada test site off and on for
23 approximately 17 years. This is a site recommendation.
24 Back in '87 when I seen that the site was being
25 recommended, I was also involved with radiation

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1 monitoring. And being a tech, I thought then the site
2 was suitable. I thought then it's an arid region, been
3 studied for many good years, we're got security. It's
4 not sitting along a river, away from a highly populated
5 area.

6 I stayed involved in '87 when they decided
7 that Yucca Mountain was going to be it. I thought it
8 was awful lucky for those studying the site to have a
9 volcanic tuff, an area where they could store what they
10 call chrystobalite canisters 1,000 foot under ground,
11 1,000, 1,200 foot from a water table. I heard about
12 earthquakes.

13 I thought, traveling around the site, I see

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14 bridge and rock arches that aren't destroyed. I see
15 rocks sitting alongside of cliffs that haven't fallen
16 off. It appears to this old boy the earthquakes out
17 here can't be too bad.

18 Then I hear people talking about we was an
19 ocean once upon a time. That sounds reasonable. We
20 have glacier periods too, they tell me. There has been
21 some 38 of them, eight real severe. I guess if one of
22 those happens when this 10,000 years is up, people from
23 Boston, Montreal, New York City, Pittsburgh, they'll
24 all be moving this way. It could get awful crowded
25 around here.

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1 So maybe that water does have something to do
2 with it. I know this because I attend other meetings.
3 I go to nuclear waste technical review board meetings.
4 Those folks come off the National Academy of Sciences.
5 They are not government-related. They're independent.
6 They report to Congress, report to the Secretary of
7 Energy. They are professors and scientists.

8 I put more stock in professors and scientists
9 than I do politicians. Because the meetings, advisory
10 meetings, National Academy of Science, occasionally I

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11 get to talk to some folks from other countries. They
12 think we got a great project going. Internationally,
13 it's being looked at from Finland to Spain, to Japan,
14 England, Japan has 53 nuclear powerhouses. France has
15 59. A country called Great Britain, United Kingdom --
16 which by the way, Ireland, Scotland and England and
17 Wales would fit inside the state of Nevada -- they've
18 got 35. They're all thinking of going under ground.
19 Well, Nevadans per se don't want to have
20 anything to do with nuclear. But I'm here to tell you
21 if it's found scientifically sound, it's going to
22 become a viable solution to this nation's nuclear
23 concerns and issues. I do think that we ought to
24 reassess our valuation. I do think we ought to
25 re-examine our approach. I do think we ought to become

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1 more involved with health and safety and transportation
2 issues before the opportunity to do so is history as
3 well. I see people putting on programs of substance,
4 but I don't see you attending. I see you attacking
5 policy. I see you attacking procedures. I see delay.
6 But the United States Congress has mandated
7 and, believe me, this is a national, a national issue,

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8 not a state's rights. You say no way, we don't want
9 nuclear. But how many of us have cars made from
10 foreign countries or other parts of this country that
11 are made with nuclear power? How many of us want the
12 tourists to come back to Las Vegas, Nevada? There is
13 25,000 people laid off there, that they make their
14 wages or they make a product with nuclear power?

15 Remember, when folks leave Las Vegas after
16 they've had their entertainment and spent their monies
17 in the machines, they don't go home with a product.
18 They go home with memories. So those of you out there
19 that have nuclear power, come back and leave it here so
20 we don't have 25,000 people unemployed.

21 We need to diversify our economy. Las Vegas
22 needs to look forward to getting their kids through
23 college and have something to look more forward to
24 rather than being bed-changers, card dealers. Look
25 what happened to us at the building trades. Look how
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1 many American flags are flying, from the cops' cars to
2 my truck, to the front of your house.

3 What are we doing today? We're launching
4 aircraft off of massive ships called carriers that are

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5 nuclear-powered. From the bowels of ships, submarines,
6 we're launching tomahawk cruise missiles -- nuclear
7 power. Spent fuel rods -- we don't talk about the
8 defense waste, do we? That's part of our problem.
9 We've got 65 nuclear-powered submarines and five more
10 under construction. They're all nuclear.

11 MODERATOR BROWN: You're at five minutes.

12 MR. VASCONI: My five minutes are up.

13 We got 82 university reactors. Yeah, my
14 time's up. The realization of "ifs." If tomorrow
15 morning, if tomorrow morning Yucca Mountain becomes a
16 reality, what are we doing for ourselves? The reality
17 is this, folks -- it's a whole brand-new world out
18 there. I'll stand alongside my flag. I'll stand
19 behind it. But nuclear is here to stay. We've got to
20 work with it and think about health and safety. Think
21 about our environment and get on with it. We've got
22 the mountain. We've got the management. We got the
23 manpower to do the job right, for Christ's sake. Let's
24 get on with it.